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AUGUST 21.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Eighteen members present.

*The Lacquer Tree.*—Professor THOMAS MEEHAN remarked that he had had an extract from the *Public Ledger* sent to him, as State Botanist, with the request that he would give any information in his power as to the chances of the tree thriving in this State. He said:—

"The Lacquer plant, *Rhus vernicifera*, is so much like our common poison ash, *R. venenata*, and Japan trees generally do so very well in this latitude, that there is no room to doubt that the tree would thrive. But it is not worth while to introduce the plant, as our own poison ash has the same properties in every respect. The 'Lacquer' is the juice of the tree. It is at first whitish, but becomes black when exposed to the air. It is mixed with a small portion of oil derived from a kind of Trumpet vine, and the exact portion of oil, or the way of mixing it, is supposed to be a secret possessed only by those 'in the trade' in Japan. The 'Lacquer work' itself is made simply by putting very fine powdered charcoal on the wood before applying the prepared resin. Crude gum which I have seen from this Japan poison ash is so exactly like that which I have taken from our own poison ash, that I have little hesitation in saying that any one wishing to try the experiment, would do just as well with the product of our own swamps as with imported trees from Japan.

"It is well, however, to remember that both of these—our own and the Japan trees—are excessively poisonous, much more so than our common poison vine. It is very friendly with me, as almost all these noxious plants are; but I have known many persons very badly served even by passing where the trees were."

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AUGUST 28.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Sixteen members present.

B. F. Lautenbach, M.D., and Frank Woodbury, M.D., were elected members.

Prof. Wm. A. Buckhout, of Centre Co., Pa., was elected a correspondent.

The following paper was ordered to be printed:—